

State Match Defined Contribution Plan for State Employees

State Match for Defined Contribution Plan for the Legislature

I am Mark Rapelje. I am 53 years old. I have been an employee of the Executive Branch of the State of Michigan for 32 years. I need to make clear to this committee and the press that I'm using my vacation time to appear here today. I am testifying as a member of the public and not for any organization, any department of the State of Michigan, any union or any other type of organization. I have written this testimony on my own time and paid for the printing of this testimony with my own funds. The current wording of HB 6011 will not affect my retirement.

In prior testimony by myself to this committee, I raised objections that the Executive Branch employees have given pay and benefit concessions each and every year, for several years running and that **all State Employees are not being treated equally**. Today I raise those same two objections. Why is it that Executive Branch Employees always targeted for cost savings when the Judges, the Legislators, the elected Executive Branch Officers (Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General) and the appointed staff are not included in the sacrifices? Because of the unequal sacrifices the Executive Branch Employees should be exempted from this new sacrifice.

I do commend the House of Representatives that have co-sponsored HB 6012, which takes the 3% state match away from themselves. The fact that HB 6011 and HB 6012 was tie bared together is a great first step. I say first step, because HB 6011 and HB 6012 leaves out two large sections of State Employees. These bills do not include the State of Michigan Judges, or the elected Executive Branch officers (Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General). If saving money is truly the goal, then HB 6012 needs to be modified to include these additional State Employees.

The citizens of the State of Michigan have been told that the Governor, leadership of the House and Senate, has been working during the two week spring break, to work out compromises to allow for passage of the other retirement bills (HB 5953, HB 5954, SB 1226 and SB 1227). It is my hope that compromises include the equal treatment of all State Of Michigan Employees. The final legislation needs to include the same changes to all of the State of Michigan retirement plans. No sub set of State Employees should be treated any better or any worse than any other sub section of State Employees.

I welcome any questions that you may have for me.

Proud to be a dedicated Public Servant,
Mark Rapelje